LIBRARY

B L Y T H R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L.

ANNUAL REPORT

------- OF THE -------

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 1.

TO: The Chairman and Members of the BLYTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL:

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, My Ladies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1951.

As you will recall, Dr. S. T. G. Gray, Deputy County Medical Officer of Health was your Acting Medical Officer of Health until I took up my appointment on January 3rd, 1952. Consequently my report is based on records at my disposal, rather than on my own observations. In this respect I am particularly indebted to your Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector for the information contained in many of the Sections.

From these records, the district had a satisfactory year which compares quite favourably with 1951.

There was no high incidence of serious infectious disease. The maternal mortality was nil and the infantile mortality rate was lower than the national rate.

The diphtheria immunisation figures require careful observation, and I know the County Council's Campaign in this connection has your full approval.

The records of inspections are presented in such a way as to illustrate the considerable range of work covered by your Sanitary Inspectors.

In a district such as this the most important health fields at present are housing, water supply and sewerage. As sewage disposal is the natural corollary of a piped water supply it is to be hoped that the former will not be allowed to lag too far behind the latter, thereby creating fresh problems.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient Servant,

J. B. KERSHAW.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	98,184.
Registrar General's Estimate of Population (Mid-1951) .	19,460.
Number of inhabited houses.	6,530.
Rateable Value.	£70,641.
Product of Penny Rate	£282.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Live Births	148	168	316
(Illegitimate Births) ...	(9)	(6)	(15)

Birth Rate per 1,000 population ..... 16·2
Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales) ... 15·5
Comparability factor ..... 1·19

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Stillbirths (Legitimate)..	2	3	5
(Illegitimate)..	1	0	1

Rate per 1,000 live births ..... 18·9
Rate per 1,000 population ..... ·30
(England and Wales) ..... ·36

Maternal Mortality NIL.

INFANTILE MORTALITY:

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Deaths of infants under one year			
(Legitimate)	4	3	7
(Illegitimate).. ...	-	1	1

This gives an infantile mortality rate of 25·3 per 1,000 live births.
(England and Wales ..... 29·6).

DEATHS:

MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
142	141	283

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population = 14·5
(England and Wales = 12·5).
Comparability factor = ·73).

CAUSES OF DEATHS.

	MALE	FEMALE
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	2	3
Tuberculosis, Other	1	0
Other infectious disease	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	0	4
Malignant neoplasm, Lung	2	0
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	3
Other malignant neoplasms	12	8
Leukaemia	1	1
Diabetes	1	2
Vascular Lesions of nervous system	19	27
Coronary disease, Angina	19	8
Hypertension with heart disease	0	2
Other heart disease	41	38
Other circulatory disease	2	4
Influenza	7	5
Pneumonia	3	8
Bronchitis	7	8
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	2
Gastro-enteritis	1	0
Nephritis	1	0
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	0
Congenital malformations	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	10
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	1
All other accidents	0	1
Suicide	4	1
Homicide and operations of War	0	1
	142	141

INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year:-

	MALE	FEMALE
Whooping Cough	60	55
Measles	27	20
Pneumonia	16	12
Dysentery	7	8
Scarlet Fever	3	4
Erysipelas	1	3
Poliomyelitis - paralytic	-	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
Number of cases on Register at beginning of year.	27	16	15	13	71
Number of cases added during the year.	10	4	5	2	21
Number removed during the year.	5	6	6	4	21
NUMBER OF CASES ON REGISTER AT END OF THE YEAR.	32	14	14	11	71

CASES ADDED TO THE REGISTER:-		CASES REMOVED FROM THE REGISTER:-	
New notifications	18	Recovered	10
Removals from other areas.	3	Removed to other areas	5
		Died	6
	21		21

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The County Medical Officer has kindly supplied the following information in respect of the Rural District :-

Pre-School children immunised ..... 908.
Total number of children immunised ..... 3,253.
% pre-school children immunised ..... 54·40.
% all children immunised ..... 68·33.
"Booster" injections ..... 1951 ..... 139.

Comparative figures for the last three years:-

Y E A R	1949	1950	1951
% pre-school children immunised	63·3	58·2	54·4
% all children immunised ...	76·6	81·0	68·3

M I L K.

The County Public Health Staff took 101 samples of milk and of these :-

(a) TWO samples were found to contain tubercle bacilli. The supplies were diverted for heat treatment.

(b) NINE samples were found to contain brucella organisms. Appropriate action in accordance with the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, was taken in each case.

DAIRIES.

No: of inspections made ..... 18.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

No: of inspections made of Bakehouses 6
No: of inspections made of Ice Cream Premises 16
No: of inspections made of other places where food is prepared 25

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	3	3	4	-	132½
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcases condemned					2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	2	3	1	-	7
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.	66⅔	100	25	-	7
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcases condemned					3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.					7
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.					8

FOOD POISONING.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

It was not found necessary to take any action under Section 47 of this Act.

WATER.

No: of Samples taken ..... 33.
Visits in connection with water shortage ..... 8.

During 1951 water was carted to the Walpole Lane District and to Haugh Wood Camp. This was a considerable reduction on the cartage of water in 1950.

Main laying was in progress during 1951 in the Parishes of Marlesford, Little Glemham and Hacheston.

SEWERAGE.

Plans for a new Sewage Disposal Works in the Parish of Framlingham, to replace the existing inefficient plant, have been deposited with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

HOUSING.

(i) Housing Act, 1949. Part II.

	Private Enterprise.
A. Improvements.	
Number of dwellings in respect of which applications for grant were	
(a) made during 1951	8
(b) approved by Ministry during 1951	9
B. Provision of dwellings by conversion.	
Number of dwellings in respect of which applications for grant were	
(a) made during 1951	-
(b) approved by Ministry during 1951	1

(ii) Provision of new Housing Accommodation.

	By Local Authority		By Private Enterprise	
	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary
1. No: of houses in respect of which tenders were approved by Ministry during 1951.	58	-	-	-
2. No: of houses completed during the year.	52	-	3	4
3. No: of houses in course of construction on 31.12.51.	68	-	6	2
4. Total No: of houses owned by Council on 31.12.51.	640	43 Huts 50 Prefabs	-	-

(iii) Summary of Sanitary Inspections, 1951.

Housing:

1. Total number of houses inspected during the year for all purposes other than the "Hobhouse" survey ..... 327.
2. Total number of houses in which sanitary defects were found ..... 233.
3. Number of houses which are still occupied for human habitation - (either under licence or otherwise) and in respect of which demolition or clearance orders have been made ..... 76.
4. Number of houses in respect of which informal notices have been served ..... 117.
5. Number of houses in respect of which informal notices have been complied with ..... 61.
6. Revisits ..... 155.
7. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Statutory Notices were served ..... 2.
8. Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit as a result of Statutory Notices served ..... 5.
9. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which demolition orders were made ..... 2.
10. Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of orders made ..... 1.
11. Number of dwellinghouses overcrowded at the end of the year ..... 6.
12. Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year .. 4.
13. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .. 3.

Public Health.

14. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Statutory Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..... 3.
15. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which defects were remedied (by Owners) after service of formal notices ..... 1.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

Factories with Mechanical Power ..... 83.
Factories without Mechanical Power ..... 19.

T O T A L .....102.

Factories and Workshops inspected ..... 9.
Factories in which defects were found ..... 1.
No: of cases in which defects were remedied ..... 1.